

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00
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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, GQ
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) CONSIDERATION OF GUAM

1. AT A MEETING OF THE C-24 SUB-COMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRI-
TORIES ON MAY 25, MISOFF (KRIENDLER) PROVIDED INFORMATION

ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN GUAM AND ANNOUNCED THAT THE U.S. HAD EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO THE COMMITTEE TO OBSERVE THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM NOW SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON NOVEMBER 7, 1978, AND TO OBSERVE CONDITIONS IN THE TERRITORY.

2. KRIENDLER TRACED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION FROM THE ELECTION OF THE DELEGATES TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO TRANSMITTAL OF THE CONSTITUTION BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE CONGRESS ON APRIL 28. HE ALSO OUTLINED THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION, NOTING IN PARTICULAR DETAIL ITS PREAMBLE AND BILL OF RIGHTS.

3. CONCERNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS, KRIENDLER STATED THAT IN 1977 GUAM BEGAN A COMEBACK FROM THE ECONOMIC RECESSION OF RECENT YEARS AND THE DEVASTATION OF TYPHOON PAMELA. AMONG THE FAVORABLE INDICATORS WERE AN INCREASE IN GROSS BUSINESS RECEIPTS, CREATION OF NEW JOBS AND A DECREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT. A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT WAS AN INCREASE IN FEDERAL EXPENDITURES IN GUAM. THERE WAS ALSO A 15 PERCENT INCREASE IN VISITOR ARRIVALS, THE FIRST INCREASE IN TOURISM IN THREE YEARS, AND THERE WAS A SMALL BOOM IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. KRIENDLER CONCLUDED THAT IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT GUAM CONTINUES TO FACE SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BUT THAT

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BOTH THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ARE WELL AWARE OF THESE PROBLEMS AND ARE WORKING JOINTLY TO OVERCOME THEM.

4. SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KOUAME (IVORY COAST), SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HIS DELEGATION AND THE SUB-COMMITTEE, NOTED THE U.S. INVITATION WITH APPRECIATION.

5. IN THE BRIEF QUESTION PERIOD WHICH FOLLOWED, KRIENDLER REPLIED TO AN INDIAN QUERY THAT PURSUANT TO THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF GUAM WOULD BE ELECTED ON THE BASIS OF UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE AS IS PRESENTLY THE CASE. RESPONDING TO AN IRAQI QUERY, KRIENDLER NOTED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN GUAM'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE U.S. IF THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION IS ADOPTED. HE NOTED THAT GUAM IS AN UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY OF THE U.S. AND THAT GUAMANIAN ARE U.S. CITIZENS.

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